



Weekly Drought Brief Monday April 7, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Recent Precipitation: Rain and snow continued to fall early last week across California, adding slightly to annual precipitation totals. Totals from Monday, March 31 through Sunday, April 6:

- **Folsom:** 1.76" in the last week. 15.12" since July 1, 74% of normal by this date.
- **Fresno:** 0.42" in the last week. 4.26" since July 1, 42% of normal by this date.
- **Hetch Hetchy:** 1.18" in the last week. 17.93" since July 1, 56% of normal by this date.
- **Los Angeles:** 0.29" in the last week. 5.77" since July 1, 42% of normal by this date.
- **Modesto:** 0.64" in the last week. 6.63" since July 1, 57% of normal by this date.
- **Oroville:** 0.72" in the last week. 19.00" since July 1, 67% of normal this date.
- **Pollock Pines:** 1.44" in the last week. 24.40" since July 1, 52% of normal by this date.
- **Redding:** 0.84" in the last week. 21.16" since July 1, 71% of normal by this date.
- **Sacramento:** 1.48" in the last week. 9.59" since July 1, 50% of normal by this date.
- **Shasta:** 1.72" in the last week. 33.68" since July 1, 59% of normal by this date.
- **Willits:** 2.20" in the last week. 33.92" since July 1, 74% of normal by this date.

Near-term Outlook for Precipitation: Dry weather will continue from mid-last week through all of this week. A slight chance of small storms exists for later in the week, particularly along the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Any precipitation from these storms is expected to be minimal.

As our state's rainy season nears its end this month, much of California has received slightly more than half of normal precipitation for this rainy season. Heavy rain and snow would have to fall throughout California every day for the remainder of April to reach average annual rain and snowfall levels, which is highly unlikely. Even with such precipitation, California would remain in drought conditions, due to low water supplies in reservoirs from the two previous dry years.

Snow survey: The most recent [snowpack survey](#), conducted on April 1, recorded California snowpack at 32% of normal. A more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at 35% of normal as of April 6.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of April 5 remain low, including: Don Pedro 54%; Exchequer 23%; Folsom Lake 48%; Lake Oroville 50%; Millerton Lake 32%; New Melones 43%; Pine Flat 23%; San Luis 44%; Shasta 50%; and Trinity Lake 54%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

Fire Danger: 890 fires have been reported across the state since January 1, burning 2,354 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 338 fires, burning 1,074 acres. 16 new fires were reported over the past week, most of which were kept small thanks to additional firefighters, fire engines and firefighting aircraft added during this dry winter.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK

State Government

- **State and Federal water projects capture runoff from recent storms:** The Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation moved last Tuesday to increase water pumping from the Delta in order to capture recent storm runoff in reservoirs south of the Delta. DWR and Reclamation received concurrence from federal and state fish and wildlife agencies to use an alternative measurement under the Endangered Species Act to set the maximum amount of water that could be exported from the Delta during this storm period.

This action enabled the state and federal water projects to more than triple their pumping over the last week compared to the amount allowable without this action, while ensuring compliance with environmental protections. More information on this action is detailed in [Water Management Actions](#) subpage of the state's drought information clearinghouse, www.drought.ca.gov.

- **State and Federal agencies release their Drought Operations Plan:** This week, the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation will release their Drought Operations Plans outlining planned water management actions through November. The Plan has been developed to ensure that adequate water supplies will exist through the coming dry months for human health and safety purposes, salinity control in the Delta and fish and wildlife protection while utilizing regulatory flexibility to capture as much water as possible for beneficial uses through the state and federal water projects.

This Drought Operations Plan has been developed in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This plan is based on hydrological data from early March, so it will be updated in the coming weeks as April's hydrological data is generated and the agencies' hydrological assessment for April is compiled.

- **Emergency allocation for food assistance moves forward:** The California Department of Finance has authorized \$5.1 million in funding to the state's Department of Social Services to provide emergency food aid. This first wave of Legislature-approved emergency food funding will enable the state's Foodlink system to expand trucking of pre-packaged food boxes to certain drought impacted areas beginning in early May. The Department of Social Services is planning with California food banks to develop drought assistance plans, which can help adjust food delivery options to address changing local needs. Subsequent targeting of food aid will depend on additional data on drought impacts, including a UC-Davis study expected later this spring.
- **Emergency drinking water funds guidelines proposed:** The California Department of Public Health has posted [its guidelines for \\$15 million in Public Water System Drought Emergency funds](#) approved through the state's emergency drought legislation in March. This funding is available immediately for emergency projects to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supplies in local communities.
- **Water efficiency grants moves forward:** The California Department of Water Resources last week released [draft guidelines for \\$200 million of expedited bond funding](#) to improve local water systems' reliability and efficiency. These funds will be available for projects that are part of 48 Integrated Regional Water Management planning efforts

underway throughout the state. This funding is being expedited as directed in the state's emergency drought legislation.

- **State contract for water to help local governments purchase emergency supplies:** The California Department of General Services is pursuing both bottled water and a bulk water contracts that will allow local governments who must purchase water during the drought to simply purchase off the state contracts. This will reduce the time and expense incurred by local governments to acquire bottled or bulk water supplies. Local governments will be able to purchase from these contracts by the end of May.
- **State's Drought Taskforce leaders travel to Santa Cruz:** On Friday, Drought Taskforce leaders travelled to Santa Cruz and held their third regional meeting with local officials. Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz county officials summarized current drought challenges that their communities face. Santa Cruz reported mandatory conservation measures will be put in place on May 1 and the Taskforce heard about emergency drinking water projects underway to ensure adequate supplies for smaller water agencies in the area.
- **Public meetings on grants for agricultural water efficiency:** Later this week on Friday, the California Department of Food and Agriculture will hold [its first public meeting](#) to develop its \$10 million grant program for farm-based water efficiency projects. This program is funded by cap and trade proceeds and expedited under the State's recent emergency drought legislation.
- **Cost Data:** Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 37 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba
 - **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County, City of Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe
 - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, and Goleta Water District.
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation

programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.

- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 24 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, and Tuolumne.

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

Governor's [Proclamation of Drought Emergency](#)
State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)
Local Government [Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)
California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)
California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)
California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)
California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)
California State Water Project, [Information](#)
USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)
USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)
Small Business Administration Disaster Support: www.sba.gov/disaster